



CELEBRATING  
**60** YEARS  
OF  
CONNECTING,  
GROWING,  
AND  
EMPOWERING

GOOD SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**1958 - 2018**  
DECORAH, IOWA

*...We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture...*  
Psalm 100:3

## **A Message from Pastor Amy Zalk Larson:**

The anniversary of a congregation is an opportunity to celebrate how God is at work. It is an opportunity for gratitude.

Thanks be to God for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. This church is such a place of welcome, refuge and empowerment. Here people are nourished and sent out to serve in God's world.

Thanks be to God for the Charter Members of the congregation. They faithfully discerned God's leading. They gave of themselves so generously.

Thanks be to God for all who have joined the congregation since its founding. They have committed to something larger than themselves, something that existed before they showed up and will continue after they are gone.

Thanks be to God for the leaders and pastors of this congregation. They have been good and faithful servants.

Most all, thanks be to God for Jesus, our Good Shepherd. The abiding presence of the Good Shepherd has empowered this congregation throughout its history. We pray that this congregation will continue to be led by our Good Shepherd in faith, hope and love.

# Summary History of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*by Carol Hasvold and Jane Kemp    October 2018*

During the 1950's the idea surfaced to consider the formation of a new Lutheran church on the west side. Several factors were instrumental in this initiative but two stand out. West Decorah was developing with many new residents and at that time there was no Luther student congregation. Luther students typically trekked the mile from campus, across the Upper Iowa River, and up the hill to First Lutheran Church.

In response to these factors, a site for the new church was explored. A parcel of land was purchased for \$25,560 on November 7, 1957, on property which had formerly been a sheep pasture. Committees were organized and Sovik & Associates of Northfield, MN were engaged as architects. The first unit of the building, costing \$46,877, was constructed and the church formally organized as Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on November 24, 1958.

The first pastor at Good Shepherd was Rev. Palmer Russeth (served 1958-1965), who walked door to door in west Decorah, inviting people to take part in the new west side Lutheran Church. He was very successful in establishing Good Shepherd as a neighborhood church. The church as it was built at the time was comprised of the present fellowship hall as the sanctuary, and the hallway flanked by two classrooms was the "west wing", used for coffee, fellowship, small worship groups and education.

The second pastor was Rev. R. David Berg (served 1965-1974), whose focus was to cement the relationship of this church toward Luther College. Members of the time remember that Pastor Berg was on campus nearly daily having coffee with Luther faculty, encouraging participation in Good Shepherd as a place for progressive and independent thinkers.

Rev. Paul Hasvold (served 1974-1998) led in establishing Good Shepherd as a church of social action. Under his leadership Good Shepherd was a center for resettling Southeast Asians following the Vietnam War and alone sponsored over 300 Vietnamese, Cambodian and Hmong people to settle in Decorah. The English as a Second Language school for refugees in the area was located at Good Shepherd and the Southeast Asian Resettlement Agency was founded and administered here. Pastor Hasvold also reached out to persons with disabilities, and was state president of the Association for Retarded Citizens. He led in creating the addition of the present sanctuary, offices, sacristy, nursery, and classrooms in 1988.

Pastor Joan Mau (served 1999-2014) was known for her intellect, good preaching and counseling. Under her leadership, the congregation especially reached out to LGBTQ persons becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation in 2007.

Pastor Amy Larson, who began her ministry at Good Shepherd in 2015, is leading us to follow Jesus's imperative to feed the hungry and house the homeless. Good Shepherd at this time is active in supporting undocumented immigrants, and helping unaccompanied minors with legal and other problems. She is also expanding the church staff and programs and leading the initiative to study space needs for refurbishing the church building.



# Charter Members

\* = Current Congregation Member

*Italics indicate deceased Charter Members*

Children listed are those who were born to Charter Member parents at the time the congregation was founded, November 24, 1958.

Also included are those who became members at the end of 1958.

Bale, John\* & Mabel  
Ruth

Belgum, Rev. Gerhard & Olga  
Stephen, Jeanne, Mark, Lee, Christian

Berg, Warren & Jan  
Paula, Kristin, Kari, Jon Torger\*, Erik\*

Bergan, Martinus

Bolmgren, Carl & Alice

Bolson, Ransome & Constance\*  
Cheryl, Daryl, Joeyl, Terry

Borge, Rev. D.J.

Bruemmer, John & Jean  
Russell, Ruth, Paul, Barbara

Butler, Bartlett & Barbara  
David, Anne, Paul

Christiansen, Karl & Shirley (Now Shirley Friedel)  
Karl John, Kurt

Dinger, Richard\* & Mildred\*  
Karen, John

Docken, Adrian & Orene  
Paul, Sigrid, Philip, Peter

Erdman, Lowell\* & Audrey  
Lindsay\*

Finanger, Kenton & Lucia  
Mark\*, Phillip

Giere, Frederic & Hazel  
Nils, John

Grue, Charlotte

Headington, O, Curtis & Joan  
Debra, William

Hoeg, Victor & Laura  
Carol, Robert

Hommen, Donovan & Karol

Hopkins, Kenneth & Irma  
Diane, Ronald

Hoslett, Sherman & Martha  
Andrea, John

Hougen, Rev. Virgil & Leona  
Roy, James, Curtis

Jacobson, Angeline

Johnson, David & Jean  
Steven

Jordahl, Esther

Jordahl, Solveig

Julsrud, Ingrid

Kalsow, Wilbert & Vivian  
Arlene, Kathryn, Charlotte, Wendell

*Kjome, George & Agnes*  
Michael, Nils\*, Mildred\*, John\*  
*Klocke, Marvin & Doris*  
Kim, Linda, Diane  
*Kloster, Clair & Hedvig*  
Stephen, Ingrid  
*Knudson, George & Shirley*  
Ralph, Nancy, Karl\*  
*Koenig, Verne\* & Ardith*  
Bonnie, Gary, Jody\*, Kelly  
*Langie, Irene*  
*Larsen, Dr. Nikolai Astrup & Marie*  
*Lass, Jerry & Carol*  
Gary  
*Lee, Rev. Knute & Shirley*  
David, Robert, John, Philip  
*Lionberger, Mrs. Anna*  
*Lionberger, Rev. Paul & Justine*  
Mary, Ann, Ruth, Martha  
*Magelssen, Rev. Finn & Catherine*  
*Magelssen, Johannes & Dorothy*  
Ruth, David, Mark  
*Mentink, Lee & Eleanor*  
Michael, Rachel  
*Nesheim, Rev. Obed*  
*Olson, O. Rolf*  
*Peterson, Anna*  
*Peterson, Gary & Mary*  
*Ramsey, Raymond & LaVerne*  
Roselyn, Ronald, Beverly\*, David\*  
*Rebassoo, Herbert & Niina*  
Peep, Vaho, Arvi

*Reque, Peter & Beverly*  
*Rod, Herbert & Norene*  
Mary, David, Carolyn, Janice  
*Rosholt, Mrs. T. L.*  
*Running, George, Marjorie, Kristi*  
*Russeth, Rev. Palmer & Lydia*  
Paul, Kathryn, Elizabeth  
*Sacquitne, Lyle & Lucille*  
Susan, James, John  
*Sandager, Martha*  
*Sandager, Richard*  
*Schweizer, Edsel & Helen*  
Martha, David, Timothy  
*Selbo, Rev. Gordon & Elsie*  
Mark, Daniel  
*Senjem, Mrs. Ruth* (Became Ruth Mohn)  
Mary, Philip, Norman  
*Sheridan, Mrs. Sydell*  
John, Thomas, Joseph\*  
*Smalley, Mrs. Elise*  
*Strand, Helen*  
*Sundby, Rev. Gustave A. & Lydia*  
*Svanoe, Harold & Lucille*  
Edward, Philip  
*Tawser, Mrs. Hannah*  
*Tolo, Rev. Arthur J.*  
*Wicks, Eugene & Anvy\**  
Dennis, Steven, Diane, Michael, Cathy

# Selected Milestones

## The First Fifty Years: 1958-2008

**July 2, 1958** - Groundbreaking for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

**September 7, 1958** - Laying of cornerstone.

**September 14, 1958** - First worship service; held outdoors; First Sunday School

**November 24, 1958** - Good Shepherd formally established

**December 7, 1958** - Pastor Palmer Russeth installed; last service September 1965 (deceased April 28, 2003)

**December 14, 1958** - First Baptism

**May 17, 1959** - First Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

**June 21, 1959** - Dedication of sanctuary and west wing. Sovik, Mathre & Associates, Architect, Northfield, MN; Stoltz Construction Co., New Hampton, IA

**October 17, 1965** - Pastor David R. Berg installed; last service June 16, 1974

**July 1967-July 1999** - Quilt shows for Nordic Fest, first at Good Shepherd, later at the high school

**1971** - Installation of first wooden pews

**August 18, 1974** - Pastor Paul M. Hasvold installed; last service July 1, 1998 (deceased January 19, 2015)

**November 19, 1978** - Dedication of Fuehrer organ (built 1968 in Bremen, Germany)

**November 20, 1988** - Dedication of the present sanctuary, offices, fellowship hall and educational spaces. Architectural Design Group, Rochester; Finholt Construction, Decorah

**April 25, 1993** - Property sold to Weston Noble for \$50,000; congregation voted to establish an endowment with the funds and then loan the principal of the endowment to pay off a portion of the mortgage

**January 23, 1994** - Good Shepherd Endowment Fund approved at the Annual Meeting

**August 28, 1994** - Weavings by John Skare dedicated, located on front wall of sanctuary

**December 1994** - Five new church pews built by Gunder Church Furniture placed in sanctuary

**October 1995** - "Handicapped Access Lot" completed on west side of church building

**1998-1999** - Interim Pastor Daniel David Wee (deceased November 11, 2011)

**May 16, 1999-2014** - Pastor Joan A. Mau installed; last service September 1, 2014 (deceased May 24, 2015)

**July 2000** - Krumkake sales for Nordic Fest replacing the quilt shows

**January 21, 2007** - Certified as a Reconciling in Christ Congregation (RIC)

**November 23, 2008** - *Celebration of 50 years of worship, ministry, and community*

## The Last Ten Years: 2008-2018

### PASTORS AND DIRECTORS

**September 1, 2014-** Pastor Joan M. Mau's last service

**November 9, 2014 - July 26, 2015** - Interim Pastor April Ulring Larson

**September 13, 2015** - Pastor Amy Zalk Larson installed

**January 2015** - Brooke Joyce, Director of Music, hired

**February 1, 2017 -**

**November 11, 2018** - Assistant Pastor Marion Pruitt-Jefferson

**July 8, 2018** - Kathryn Thompson, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, installed

## The Last Ten Years: 2008-2018, con't.

### OUTREACH

**September 2010** - First Welcome  
Friends and Neighbors Picnic

**June 2013** - Launch of present  
Good Shepherd website [www.  
goodshepherddecorah.org](http://www.goodshepherddecorah.org)

**October 2014** - Launch of online  
*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Family  
Directory*

### MUSIC

**October 25, 2009** - Dedication of  
Hook and Hastings Opus 1193 Organ

**May 2015** - Donation of Estey baby  
grand piano

**January 2016** - Purchase of  
handbells

### LITURGICAL FURNISHINGS

Altar and pulpit paraments

**June 1, 2009** - green

**December 24, 2011** - white

**February 12, 2013** - purple

**May 9, 2013** - red

**May 29, 2015** - blue

**May 22, 2016** - Dedication of green,  
white, purple, red and blue pastor's  
stoles

**May 14, 2017** - Dedication of  
Processional Cross

**November 4, 2018** - Dedication of  
Alleluia Banner

**November 11, 2018** - Dedication  
of ceramic communion ware



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

**2013** - Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Certification

**April 2016** - LED lights installed throughout building

**June 2017** - Solar panels installed on the Annex roof

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

**September 2017** - Recognized as an AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities) Welcoming Congregation

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

**March 2015** - AED (Automated External Defibrillator) installed in corridor

**April-May 2015** - Narthex and corridor to Fellowship Hall painted; new furniture installed in Narthex; cabinets, cubbies and counter built in corridor

**June 2015** - New roof installed on Annex

**June 2016** - Good Shepherd sign repaired and reinstalled

**June-August 2016** - Annex exterior painted; annex interior readied for use as Youth Forum space, annex porch rebuilt

**February 11, 2017** - Welcome sign installed in main entry

**October 2017** - Reformation Grove planted

**June-July 2018** - Exterior of church building painted

**July-September, 2018** - Sanctuary renovated

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**November 23, 2008** - *Celebration of 50 years of Worship, Ministry, and Community*

**November 17, 2013** - *A Celebration Of Gathering: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Expansion of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's Building and Mission*

**November 25, 2018** - *Celebrating 60 Years of Connecting, Growing and Empowering: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1958-2018*

# Celebrating the Last 10 Years 2009-2018

*Compiled by Jeri Laursen*

## **BAPTISMS:**

Ailabouni, Claire Elizabeth 2017  
Bellrichard, Solveig LaVonne 2017  
Blivens, Dawson Ray 2018  
Faldet, Henry 2016  
Gertz, Eli Bishman 2012  
Joyce, Keagan Patrick 2011  
Joyce, William Kyle 2015  
Vick, Mason Rod 2011  
Tapscott, Natalie 2016  
NKambule, Menzi 2018  
Schroeher, Daniel Gary 2018  
Tiegen, Joseph 2018  
Wicks, Ellis Shea 2017  
Wicks, Karl Robert 2013  
Wicks, Philip 2018

## **MARRIAGES:**

Blair, Lewis and Bakke, Cathy 2012  
Kidd, Jennifer and Morris, Brigette  
2017  
Kjome, Wendy and Anderson, Kevin  
2017  
Klammer, Martin and Reed, Kathryn  
2013  
Vo, Lam Phi and Connop, Maranda  
Rayleen 2012

## **CONFIRMATIONS:**

Deifelt Streese, Carolina 2009  
Deifelt Streese, Gabriela 2011  
Faldet, Pearl 2009  
Holland, Ava 2017  
Holland, Mara 2018  
Kjome-Johnson, Kristi 2018  
Klammer, Noah 2010  
Larson, Nathan 2018  
Peterson, Kayla 2010  
Rohr, Cole 2011  
Ruiz, Anthony 2016  
Ruiz, Michael 2011  
Solberg, Kalle 2013  
Solberg, Keaton 2017  
Tapscott, Natalie 2016

## **FUNERALS, MEMORIAL SERVICES AND BURIALS:**

Bahr, Vernon (Bud) 2017  
Bakke, James 2015  
Berg, (Mary) Janice 2014  
Berg, Warren 2012  
Bolson, Ransome 2010  
Branhagen, Ruth 2016  
Butler, Barbara 2014

Butler, Bartlett 2012  
Casebere, Milton 2011  
Casebere, Shirley 2017  
Docken, Orene 2010  
Drews, Henry 2011  
Drews, Meta 2011  
Erdman, Audrey 2014  
Erickson, Lillian 2014  
Fadness, Ruth 2011  
Gordon, Gayle 2009  
Hasvold, Pastor Paul 2015  
Heidtke, Bunice 2016  
Jacobson, Angeline 2011  
Kaschins, Edward A. 2017  
Klocke, Marvin 2018  
Klosterboer, Edward 2011  
Klosterboer, Florene 2016  
Knudsvig, Lillian Leota 2018  
Koenig, Ardith 2013  
Kvamme, Diane 2017  
Lionberger, Rose Justine 2018  
Lionberger, Paul 2010  
Maggelssen Dorothy 2017  
Mikkelsen, Clark 2010  
Mikkelsen, Judy 2016  
Nelson, Corrine 2017  
Nesheim, Jaerdis (Olson) 2018  
Nesheim, Norwin (Bud) 2012  
Pilgrim, Donald 2016  
Ramsey, Raymond 2009  
Ramsey, Ronald 2013

Rotto, John 2013  
Schweizer, Helen 2016  
Solberg, Paul 2017  
Sunde, Carmen 2017  
Swiggum, Maxine 2017  
Swiggum, Peter 2009  
Tangen, Merlin 2018  
Vo, Tong 2011

**60th ANNIVERSARY STEERING COMMITTEE:**

Elizabeth Kaschins, Jane Kemp, Norma Refsal

**WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Erik Berg, Kathy Buzza, Karla Erdman, Carol Hasvold,  
Jeri Laursen, Bev Sheridan, Carrie Solberg, Jenny Werner

**Cover:** *Alleluia Banner dedicated November 4, 2018*



**GOOD SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

701 Iowa Avenue, Decorah, IA  
(563) 382-3963  
[goodshepherddecorah.org](http://goodshepherddecorah.org)